

## **Instrumental Music Audition Procedures**

Prospective West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts instrumental music students should have a two-three minute piece or excerpt prepared. Audition time is very limited; students wishing to audition on more than one instrument will be allotted one minute per instrument (limit two instruments per audition). Pieces should showcase technique as well as the ability to fluently speak the language of music.

The West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts instrumental music program utilizes a conservatory model, and students can expect an experience similar to the first year of a music major. Coursework will include music theory, composition, arranging, music technology, world music and popular styles.

For this reason, students should be prepared to play major and minor scales (up to three sharps or flats) and answer questions about building basic triads. Memorized solos are preferred but not mandatory.

One score, which will be returned, must be furnished to the judges, even for an original composition. Each student should prepare a piece that reflects the best example of his/her performance without being excessively simple.

All styles are welcome and students of all instruments will be considered. The West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts is not enrolling a performance ensemble and does not have set instrumentation requirements. The purpose of the institution is to collect the most talented young artists in the state and give them the opportunity to advance their skills through a rigorous summer experience.

Instrumentalists play without accompaniment and must provide their own instruments with the exception of the piano and a basic trap set. Call if you have questions.

During the audition, following categories will be given scores of 1-10: basic tone quality, major scales, phrasing/dynamics, minor scales, overall musicality, chord building, stylistic range and the ability to change/take directions.

## **How to Select Your Audition Music**

- Choose one piece that demonstrates both technically and musically the best aspects of your playing;
- Choose a piece that you know well, have performed before, and enjoy playing. Avoid choosing a piece that is too difficult or too easy for you to play—difficult literature performed poorly is not impressive, and easy literature, although performed well, may not provide enough information for the judges. Seek advice from your private teacher or ensemble director.

- Be able to play from memory two-octave major scales up to and including three sharps or flats both ascending and descending. If range is an issue for brass players, you will be allowed to play a 1½ octave scale. Pianists should play all requested scales two octaves hands together.

### **How to Prepare for Your Audition:**

- Practice all the required scales (see bullet above). The judges will select which scales to play, so you should be prepared to play any of them. All scales should be played flawlessly in time with a good sound;
- Practice sight-reading. In the event that the judge wants you to sight read, you will have 30 seconds to look over the sight-reading music before you are asked to play it;
- Wear dress clothing (e.g., dress slacks, shirt, and shoes for men—ties, jackets and suits are not necessary; dresses, skirts, or pants for women), but dress comfortably. Do not overdress or underdress in anything that could cause a distraction from your audition; Come early to your audition! Allow plenty of time for yourself. Warm up, tune your instrument, and collect your thoughts;
- Practice in the clothes and shoes you plan to wear, especially if they are new; you should practice performing your audition many times for your family, peers, teachers, or anyone who will listen to you;
- Relax and enjoy yourself! The judges want you to do well. They have all been through many auditions themselves and have experienced being nervous before.
- When performing, concentrate on your music rather than what you imagine the judges are thinking.